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19. heart rate decreased over 20% ($p=0.0022$). The mean blood pressure remained constant but exhibited a sinusoidal undulation during exposure that was disassociated from heart rate. Cardiovascular parameters returned to normal soon after cessation of exposure. In summary, statistically significant changes were recorded concomitant with microwave exposure. Blood pressure exhibited a heretofore unreported oscillation, disassociated from heart rate. It is possible that this microwave reaction is mediated via baroreceptor cardiodepressor mechanisms.

Response to biological effects of microwave radiation



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FOREWORD

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5 For the protection of human subjects, the investigator(s) have adhered to policies of applicable Federal Law 45CFR46.


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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Foreward	1
2.	Table of Contents.....	2
3.	Statement of the Problem and Rationale.....	3
4.	Background and Review of the Literature.....	4
5.	Materials and Experimental Method.....	4
6.	Results.....	5
7.	Discussion and Conclusion.....	5
8.	References.....	7
6.	Diagrams and Figures	
	Diagram 1 - Block Diagram of Exposure System.....	9
	Diagram 2 - Rat Restrainer.....	10
	Figures	
1.	Head Temperature.....	11
2.	Colon Temperature.....	12
3.	Blood Pressure.....	13
4.	Heart Rate.....	14

For those exposed inadvertently to microwaves, as well as operators of microwave devices questions frequently arise as to safety. The role of non-heating effects of microwaves to health pose another area of interest. Specifically, the role of low level non-heating effects of pulsed microwaves on heart rate and blood pressure is examined in this report.

1. Statement of the Problem and Rationale

The clinical effects of microwaves are considered under the heading of heating and non-heating. Interpretation of reported findings of non-heating, clinical effects must be viewed with beforehand knowledge that reported entities such as cataracts and sterility (1) are viewed with extreme skepticism by many western scientists (2,3,4). The list of symptoms complained of during low level non-heating microwave exposure (specific absorption rate; SAR) less than 4 watts/kg are grouped under the term, microwave sickness. Headache, fatigue, weakness, irritability and auditory clicking (microwave hearing) (8,9) are described by those exposed to microwave fields. The proposed mechanism of the non-heating effects of microwaves are changes in membrane structure, macromolecule denaturation, and low level thermal effects.

The effects of microwaves on the central nervous system include the already described symptoms, i.e., headache, irritability, etc. The mechanisms ascribed to these symptoms are believed to be caused by hysteria, hyperresponsiveness and cutaneous perception (hyperesthesia). An alternate theory proposed here for central nervous system effects is a subtle resetting of the body's intrinsic pressure monitoring center, the baroreceptors (15). The role of baroreceptor-microwave interaction has not been examined.

The baroreceptors comprise several centers throughout the body. These pressure sensitive sites form the afferent limb of the neurocirculatory center. Baroreceptors are located in the heart, both atria, left ventricle, lung, carotid sinus, aortic arch, and the brain. The latter, termed the neurocirculatory center, is located in the medulla. In a typical example of this neurocirculatory reflex arc at work, a pressure evoked impulse originating in any of these pressure sensors will proceed centrally via the glossopharyngeal and vagus nerves to the medullary vasomotor center. After reaching the vasomotor center, the medulla will send out either sympathetic or parasympathetic discharges in order to adjust the blood pressure either up or down. For instance, low blood pressure elicited sympathetic discharges cause prominent effects on both the arterial and venous systems with decreased venous distension and arterial constriction, and an increase in heart rate combining to elevate blood pressure. The parasympathetic response predominates when

an increase in blood pressure occurs, decreasing heart rate, increasing venous distension, and arterial relaxation. This study attempts to selectively look at the role of baroreceptors when exposed to a microwave source.

2. Background

The literature, especially in the field of hypertension, has extensively examined baroreceptor mechanisms. These pressure sensitive receptors are well documented to be abnormal in hypertensives. Exogenous normal baroreceptor function is altered by ethanol, digoxin, water loading, anti-hypertensive medications, certain physiologic maneuvers, and surgical denervation. The integrity of the baroreceptor reflex arc can be tested with the drug phenylephrine. At present, there are no studies on the selective effect of microwave effects on baroreceptor function. Hypothetically, minor alterations in baroreceptor function might explain many of the alleged adverse effects humans complain of when exposed to microwaves (i.e., headache, dizziness). Important in any experiment to test the microwave baroreceptor hypothesis, is separating out the effect of heating. Therefore, this study used low average power pulsed microwaves, with careful monitoring of temperature to limit heating effects and aid the selection of the specific microwave effect (5, 12, 13).

The rodent (rat) provided an excellent baroreceptor reflex model, the integrity of which was easily tested. The literature sites numerous studies with rodents in continuous microwave fields looking at heart rate and blood pressure. However, the hypothesis of this work, that non-heating microwave exposure effects blood pressure, had no precedent in the literature. This experiment was designed to show that baroreceptors undergo non-thermal alteration in a microwave field.

3. Materials and Methods

Wistar rats of weight 300-350 grams were anesthetized with ketamine 35 mg/kg 1M in combination with acepromazine 5 mg/kg 1M intravenously for initial instrumentation. Subsequent to general anesthesia, the rat tail artery was injected with 1% xylocaine. a longitudinal incision of approximately 2.5 cm was made at the base with a scalpel. Next, via blunt dissection, both the tail artery and vein were exposed. Following exposure of the vessels, a punctate incision was made to allow for catheter (polyurethane P50 filled with heparin) insertion. The catheter tips were then manipulated to approximately mid-abdominal level, after which both the tail fascia and overlying skin was carefully sutured and bandaged. Awake, the animals were placed in the waveguide system (Diagrams 1, 2) for exposure. The artery was used for blood pressure measurements while the vein was used for phenylephrine infusion. Prior to waveguide exposure, all the animals studied

were given 2-4 micrograms of phenylephrine/kg to test baroreceptor integrity measuring heart rate and blood pressure response (11). Specifically before and after microwave exposure, via slow intravenous infusion, we raised the mean arterial pressure 30 mm Hg within 5 minutes. Prior to phenylephrine challenge, while still under anesthesia, for initial instrumentation, RF transparent probes were placed subcutaneously in the head and colon (14). Electrocardiogram (EKGs) recorded arterial pulse from the limbs.

Fifteen animals were exposed to the microwave fields while two functioned as controls. All animals were placed in a custom 1.25 GHz waveguide (WR650) fixture (Diagram 2). The animals were placed in an animal restrainer affixed to the waveguide exposure apparatus. An adjustable RF transparent mount was used to maintain the position of the animal's head and limit movement (Diagram 2). Exposure parameters were 1250 MHz pulsed microwaves, 400 KW peak power, 10 microsecond pulse width, 2 watts average power. No exposure occurred sooner than 30 minutes post phenylephrine baroreceptor challenge. Dosimetry was performed using fiber optic temperature probes. Spatial-peak SARs were determined in a cadaver. Temporal peak values of 4 Megawatts/kg and 8 MW/kg were measured in the center of the brain and neck, respectively.

4. Results

The results of the effects of pulsed microwaves on baroreceptor function are recorded using three parameters. Figures 1 and 2 denote the effect of pulsed microwaves on animal temperature change. Analysis of the animals' baseline and exposure temperature indicate no overall statistically significant change. These temperatures were recorded from probes placed in the head subcutaneously, and in the rectum. Lack of heating was corroborated by statistical significance where $p=2.6$ (Figures 1, 2). Heart rate (Figure 4) shows a statistical decrease due to microwave exposure. Blood pressure (Figure 3) showed no major change. However, during exposure the appearance of sinusoidal blood pressure fluctuation (Figure 5), with heart rate remaining fixed, represented frank blood pressure-heart rate disassociation. Heart rate (Figure 4) showed a significant drop with a p value of 0.0022 noted.

5. Discussion and Conclusion

In summary, using a specialized waveguide exposure system, the head and neck of 15 Sprague Dawley rats weighing 300-350 grams, were selectively exposed to 1250 MHz pulsed microwaves (400 KW peak power, 10 microsecond pulse width, 2 watts average power). Blood pressure, heart rate, and temperature were

continually recorded. Blood pressure was measured via the rat tail artery. Each animal's baroreceptor reflex (which controls heart rate and blood pressure) was pre-challenged with a standardized dose of phenylephrine before and after microwave exposure. Fiberoptic temperature probes were placed subcutaneously in the head and colon. All animals with one exception, responded to the baroreceptor challenge. One non-responsive animal showed no effect when exposed to microwaves. Statistical analysis of the physiological parameters that were continuously recorded, revealed that during the exposure, the animals exhibited no statistically significant change in core or head temperature, while heart rate decreased 20% ($p=0.0022$). The mean blood pressure remained constant but exhibited sinusoidal undulation during exposure that was disassociated from heart rate. Cardiovascular parameters returned to normal soon after cessation of exposure. In summary, statistically significant changes were recorded concomitant with microwave exposure. Blood pressure exhibited a heretofore unreported oscillation, disassociated from heart rate. It is possible that this microwave reaction is mediated via baroreceptor mechanisms as a specific cardio-depressor effect.

The relevance of the above findings in rodents when extrapolated to humans, while speculative, is intriguing. The heart rate and blood pressure changes could easily explain the clinical symptomology of light headedness, fatigability, dizziness and hyperesthesia. However, more study is required. Emphasis on comparisons of pulsed versus continuous microwave sources will have to be performed at the same SAR. Also, the average dose rate and temporal peak SAR should be varied to find the threshold for our findings.

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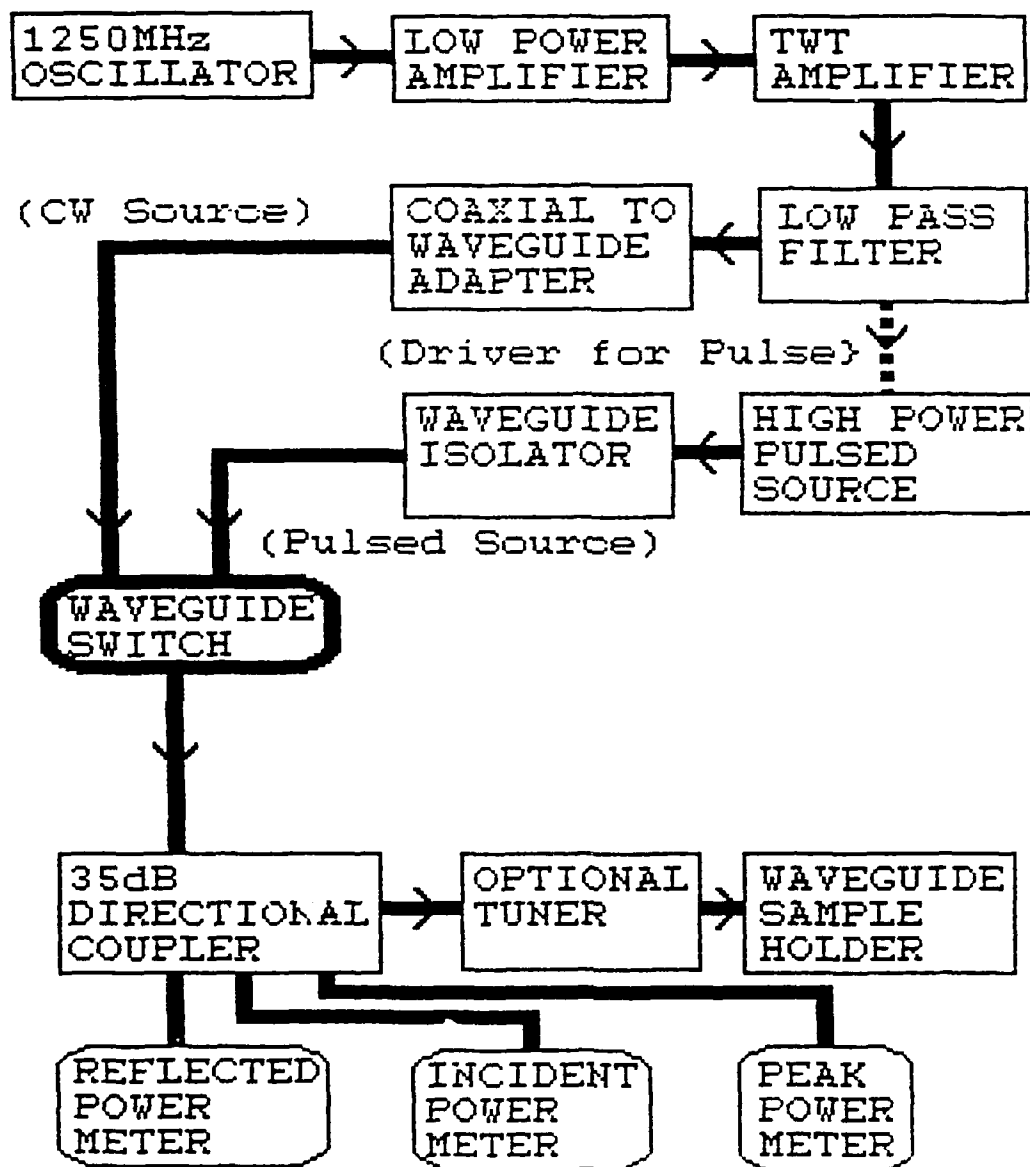


Diagram 1: Exposure system in block form.

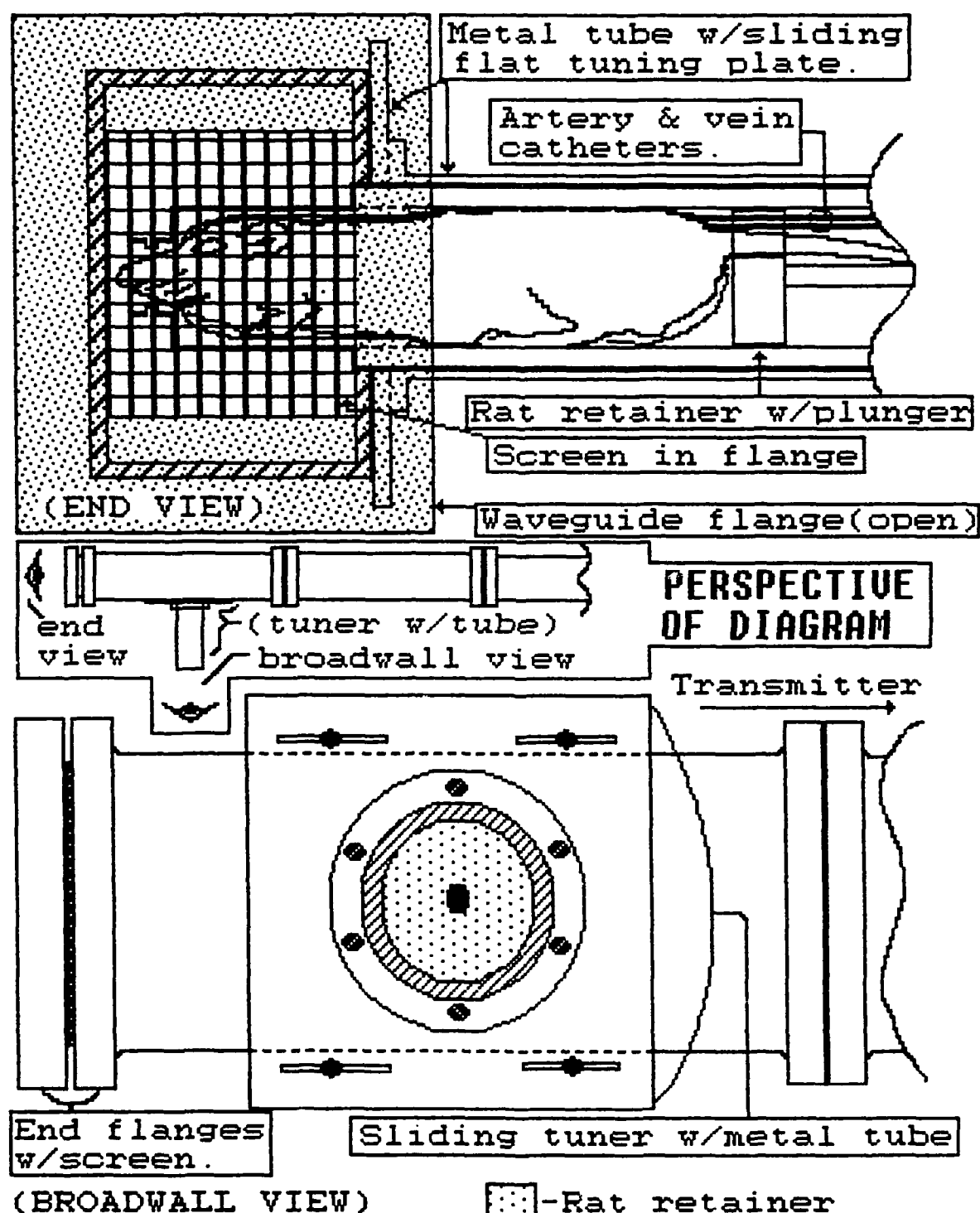


Diagram 2 -modified WR650 waveguide.

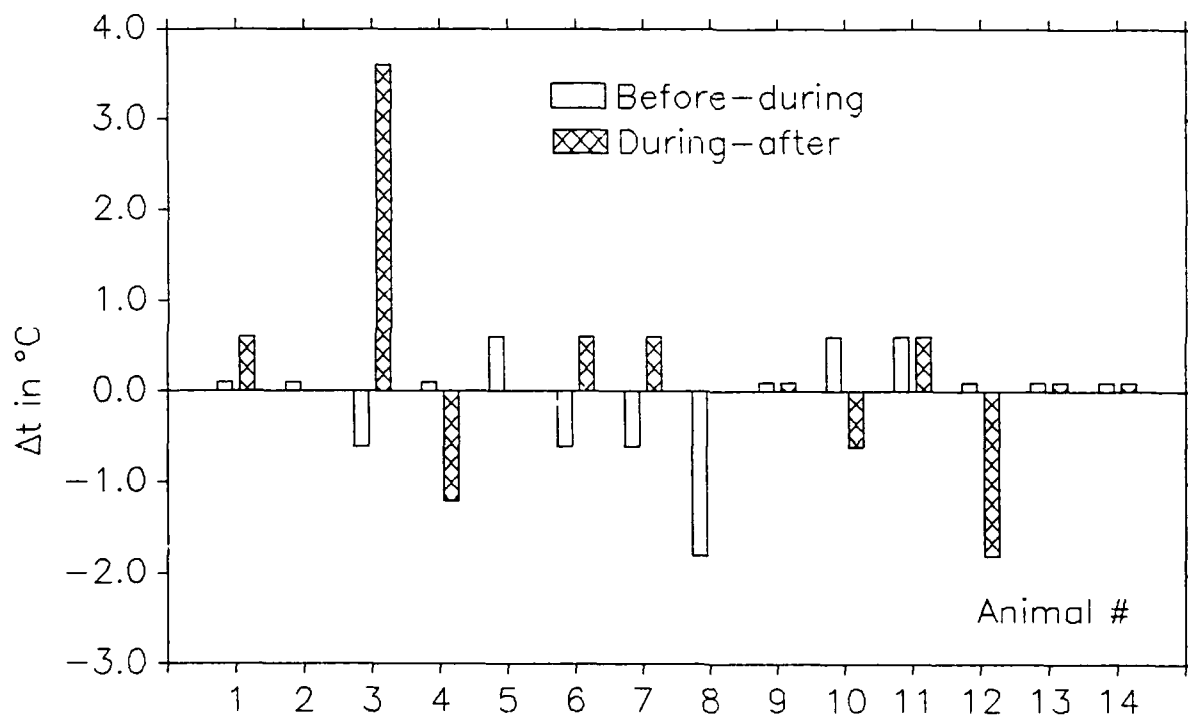


Fig.1, Subcutaneous head temperature difference before, during & after microwave exposure.

N	MEAN	MEDIAN	TRMEAN	STDEV	SEMEAN
39	31.855	31.750	31.931	2.789	0.447

MIN	MAX	Q1	Q3
26.100	36.400	29.900	33.900

STATISTICAL EVALUATION OF SUBCUTANEOUS HEAD TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE DURING MICROWAVE EXPOSURE.

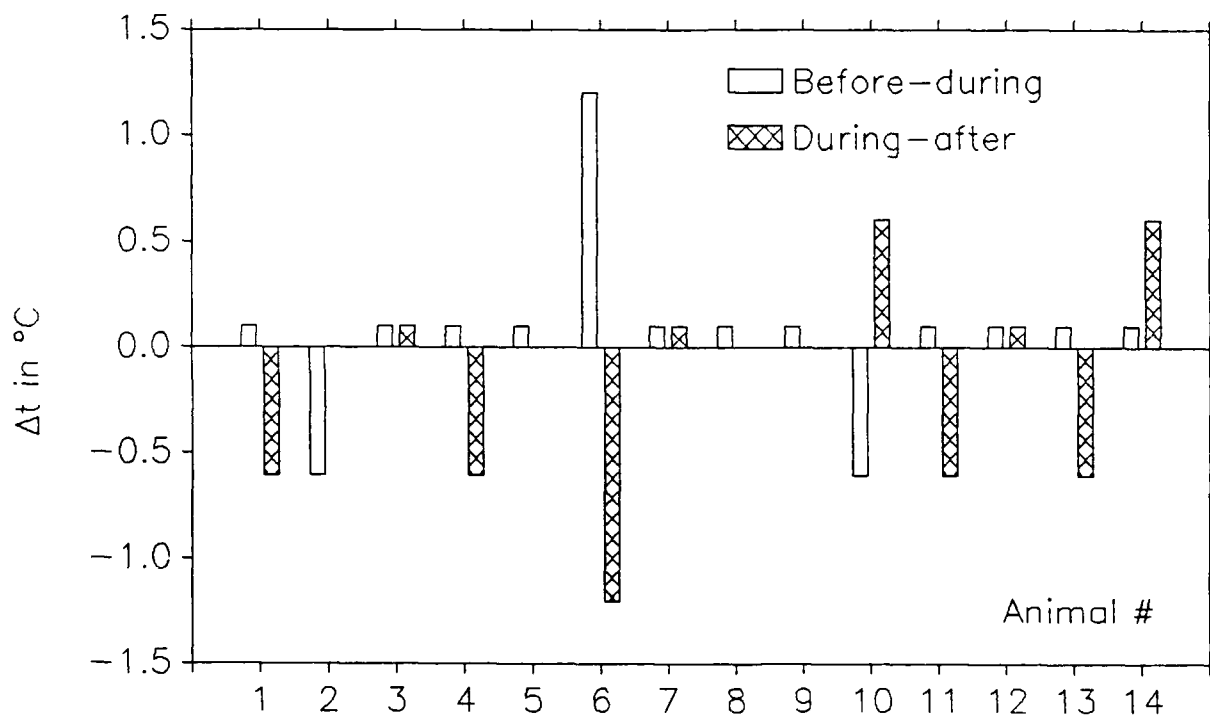


Fig.2, Colon temperature difference before, during & after microwave exposure.

N	MEAN	MEDIAN	TRMEAN	STDEV	SEMEAN
39	33.246	33.600	33.176	2.696	0.432
	MIN	MAX	Q1	Q3	
	29.000	38.300	30.300	35.500	

STATISTICAL EVALUATION OF COLON TEMPERATURE DURING MICROWAVE EXPOSURE.

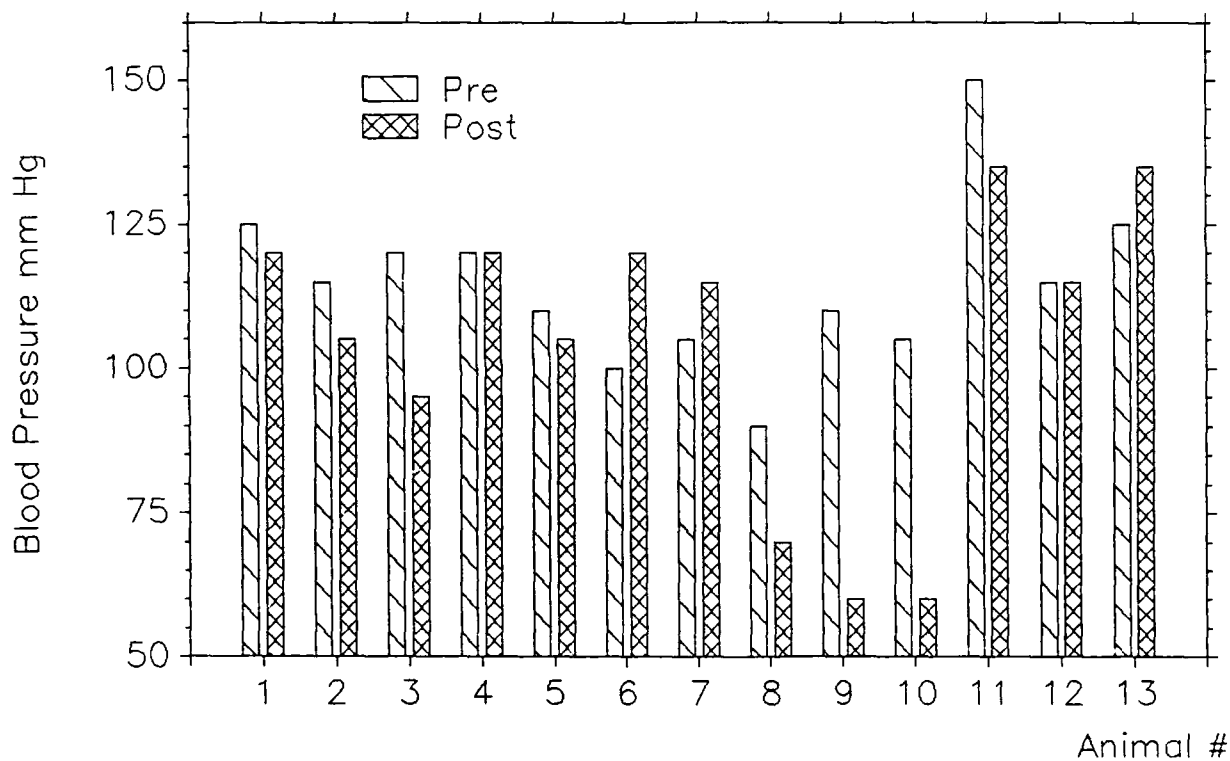


Fig.3, Blood Pressure, Pre & Post Microwave Exposure.

N	MEAN	STDEV	SEMEAN	T	PVALUE
13	-10.62	19.91	5.52	-1.92	0.079

**STATISTICAL EVALUATION OF BLOOD PRESSURE
DURING MICROWAVE EXPOSURE.**

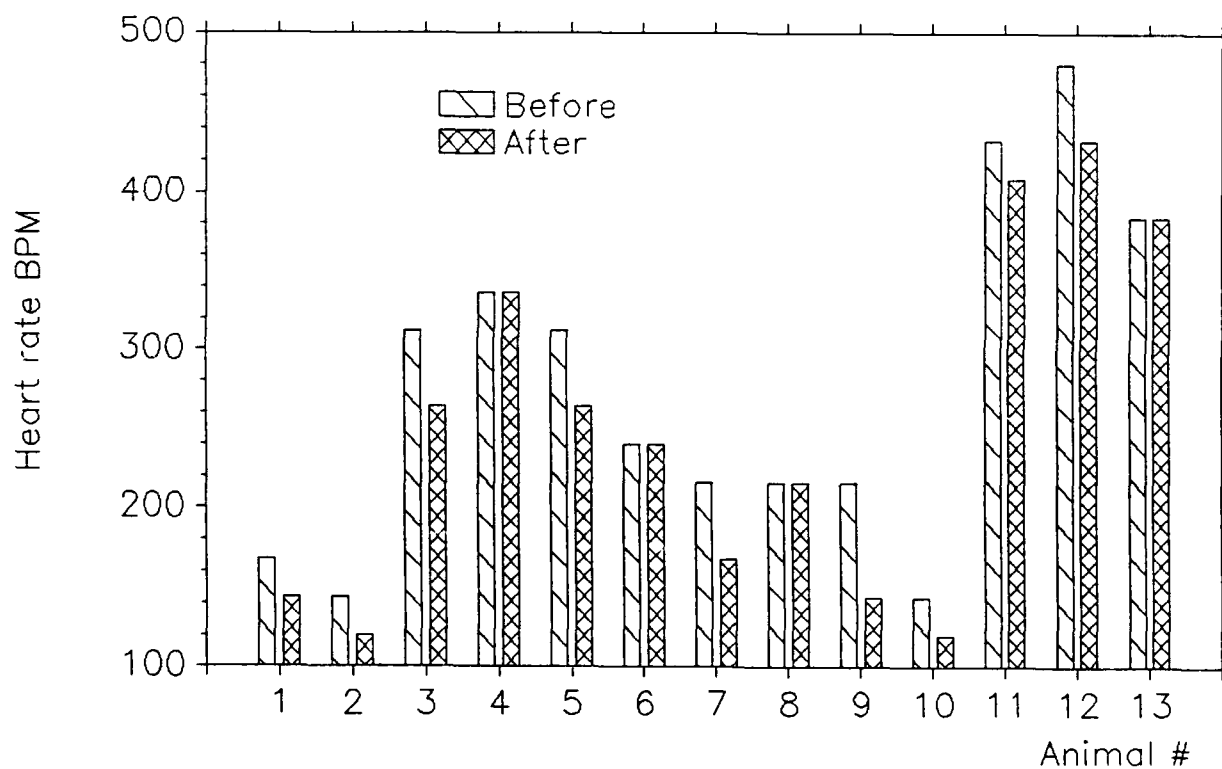


Fig.4, Heart rate before & after Microwave Exposure.

N	MEAN	STDEV	SEMEAN	T	PVALUE
13	-27.96	26.08	7.23	-3.87	0.0022

**STATISTICAL EVALUATION OF HEART RATE
DURING MICROWAVE EXPOSURE.**